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REMARKS

The claim amendments provided in the Response filed June 18, 2004 (pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8(b)) were objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 as allegedly adding new matter to the disclosure. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as allegedly not being supported by the subject matter in the specification as originally filed. Specifically, the Examiner stated that there is no support in the original disclosure for the recitations "an insulated system," "curing concrete having an exposed surface," and "directly facing the exposed surface of the curing concrete" in claim 1; "directly facing the concrete when said blanket is placed over the curing concrete" in claim 8; and "directly facing the curing concrete when said blanket is placed over the curing concrete" in claim 22. This Response presents amendments to the claims, the specification, and the drawings in order to provide specific support for all of the claim language. The amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claim 1 is amended to remove "system." Claims 1 and 8 are amended to remove "having an exposed surface." Dependent claims 3-7 are amended so the language of each respective claim corresponds to the preamble of amended independent claim 1. Additionally, the specification is amended to more clearly state that the reflective foil directly faces the curing concrete. A replacement drawing sheet is included showing a proposed amendment to Fig. 3 to specifically show the curing concrete.

The amendments presented herein are supported by the original disclosure. As originally filed, the disclosure states that in the present invention "a blanket is provided with an external reflective layer" that "is secured to the outside surface of one of the moisture-impervious layers to reflect thermal emitted radiant energy before it has passed through any

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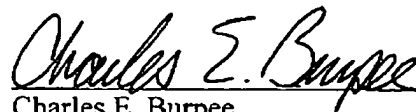
portion of the blanket,” and that “the metal foil being in direct contact with heating elements [under the blanket] also allows the foil to conduct heat laterally providing a more uniform distribution of heat to the concrete or ground.” Page 3, lines 7-13. The disclosure further states that “the external reflective layer allows thermal radiant energy to be reflected without passing through any portion of the blanket, thereby reducing heat retention by the blanket and providing improved lateral heat conduction and more uniform heat distribution. Page 4, lines 2-4. Finally, the Abstract of the Invention states that “the exterior reflective layer reflects thermal energy before it has passed through any portion of the blanket, thereby reducing heat retention within the blanket and improving lateral thermal conduction. Page 18, lines 9-11.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims presented in this Response are supported by the original disclosure, and do not introduce new matter as prohibited by 35 U.S.C. 132. Applicant further submits that, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.116, the above amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal and should therefore be entered.

Respectfully submitted,

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